REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claim 6, and claim 8 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claim 10. Claims 1 and 26 has also been clarified as a method obtained through use of a general purpose computer. Likewise, claim 8 has been clarified to recite that the previously recited image controller is a general purpose computer. These amendments facilitate allowance of the above-identified application, and thus should be entered. Claims 6 and 10 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 26-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman (US 5,396,284) and Cohen (US 5,812,054). Claims 8-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters (US 5,717,379) in view of Cohen. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Freeman teaches a motion detection system. The system is designed to determine when motion has occurred by using a time division multiplexing system 60 that is interfaced with a motion detection system 10. The motion detection system is connected to cameras C1-Cn, and the time division multiplexing system 60. As taught by Freeman, time division multiplexing is used to enhance the system's ability to handle large volumes of data and to more efficiently perform comparisons of sampled data. Although Freeman teaches algorithms for detecting multiplexing video signals and determining when motion has occurred, Freeman is silent in regard to several features of independent claims 1 and 26. In regard to claim 1, as amended, Freeman does not teach methods for notifying an interested user of activity by transmitting a surveillance image to a remote computer over a network. In regard to claim 26, as amended, Freeman does not teach transmission of a message over a network to a remote computer upon an alarm condition. Further, Freeman does not teach including a message with a video clip to enabling viewing of the activity condition that caused the signaling of the alarm condition.

To overcome the various deficiencies of Freeman, the Examiner combines Freeman with Cohen in order to reject the claims. Cohen describes a device that couples to a standard alarm control panel to provide verification of an actuated alarm.

Hence, Cohen does not teach or suggest us of a general purpose computer to provide remote surveillance of an internal area of a building or remote visual monitoring. Cohen actually teaches use of a specialized device (e.g., printed circuit board) that connects to a standard alarm control panel. Further, any audio or video verification offered by the specialized hardware of Cohen is provided to central stations. Hence, Cohen also fails to

teach or suggest use of a message (e.g., electronic mail) to send an image to a remote computer for an interested or predetermined user.

Claims 8-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters (US 5,717,379) in view of Cohen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Peters also transmits video data to a central station (emergency call center – 911), not a remote computer for an interested or predetermined user. The monitoring system in Peters can use a video telephone. Hence, Peters does not teach or suggest us of a general purpose computer to provide remote surveillance of an internal area of a building or remote visual monitoring. In summary, Peters does not overcome the deficiencies of Cohen noted above.

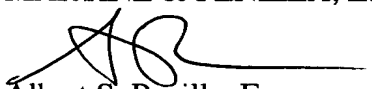
Claims 19, 22 and 23 pertain to control of information/home appliances at a local location from a remote location. None of Freeman, Cohen or Peters teaches or suggests the ability to control information/home appliances. Indeed, it is submitted that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* rejection of claims 19-25 as Freeman, Cohen or Peters are so far removed.

For at least these reasons, it is submitted that Freeman, Cohen or Peters fails to teach or suggest claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-31. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicants therefore respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ATC1P001).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE & PENILLA, L.L.P.



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Thomas et al.	Group Art Unit: 2713
Application No. 09/098,279	Examiner: Tung Vo
Filed: June 16, 1998	Date: August 23, 2001
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REMOTE MONITORING AND CONTROL OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK	Docket No: ATCP97-1A

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents and/or fees referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on August 23, 2001 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10, Mailing Label Number **EL 896840788 US**, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Signed: _____
Albert S. Penilla

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A surveillance method for [providing] operating a general purpose computer to provide remote surveillance of an internal area of a building, comprising:

receiving a surveillance image from a local camera directed at the internal area of the building;

comparing the surveillance image with a reference image to produce a comparison result;

detecting presence of an activity condition based on the comparison result; and

notifying an interested user of the activity condition when the presence of the activity condition is detected,

wherein said notifying includes, transmitting the surveillance image to a remote computer over a network automatically when the activity condition is detected, and

wherein said transmitting includes forming an electronic mail message having a predetermined mailing address, the predetermined mailing address being associated with the interested user, and electronically mailing the surveillance image to the remote computer over the network.

8. (Twice Amended) A system for providing remote visual monitoring of a location, said system comprising:

a camera for obtaining an image of the location;

a remote computer having a display device capable of viewing images, said remote computer being remote from the location;

a local [image controller] general purpose computer operatively connected to said camera, said local [image controller] general purpose computer operates to receive the image from the camera and then to determine whether an activity condition is present,

wherein said local [image controller] general purpose computer automatically forwards the image to said remote computer over a network when the activity condition is present, and said local [image controller] general purpose computer does not forward the image to said remote computer over the network when the activity condition is not present, and

wherein said local general purpose computer automatically creates an electronic mail message to a predetermined user associated with the remote computer, the electronic mail message having the image included or attached thereto, and then automatically sends the electronic mail message to said remote computer for the predetermined user.

12. (Once Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein said local [image controller] general purpose computer determines whether an activity condition is present based on the image.

13. (Once Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein said system further comprises a motion detector for producing a motion indication signal, and

wherein said local [image controller] general purpose computer receives the motion indication signal and determines whether an activity condition is present based on the motion indication signal.

26. (Twice Amended) A method for [detecting] operating a general purpose computer to detect an activity condition using a camera, comprising the acts of:

(a) receiving a reference image from a camera directed in a predetermined direction;

(b) storing a reference image;

(c) receiving a current image from a camera directed in the predetermined direction;

(d) comparing the current image with the reference image to detect an activity condition; and

(e) signaling an [alarm] activity condition when said comparing detects the activity condition; the signaling of the [alarm] activity condition including the transmission of a message over a network to a remote computer, the message including a video clip to [enabling] enable viewing of the activity condition that caused the signaling of the alarm condition.